

Joint Transportation Board

Minutes of a Meeting of the Joint Transportation Board held in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford on the **12th December 2017**.

Present:

Cllr. Heyes (Chairman);
Mr. P Bartlett (Vice-Chairman);

Cllrs. Bradford, Feacey, Howard-Smith, Mrs Martin, Smith, Mrs Webb,
Mr. M J Angell, Mrs C L Bell, Mr S J G Koowaree

Mr. K Ashby – KALC Representative.

In accordance with Procedure Rule 1.2 (iii) Councillor Howard-Smith and Councillor Smith attended as Substitute Members for Councillor Burgess and Councillor Ovenden respectively.

Apologies:

Cllrs. Burgess and Ovenden, Mr D Farrell, Mr P M Hill, Mr C Simkins.

Also Present:

Paul Harwood (Regional Lead, Spatial Planning – Highways England) Andy Moreton (Project Manager - Major Projects – KCC), Barry Stiff (Project Manager – Major Projects - KCC), Lisa Willoughby (Ashford District Manager – KCC), Phil Lightowler (Head of Public Transport - KCC), Sheila Davison (Head of Health, Parking & Community Safety – ABC), Chris Miller (Parking, Highways and Transportation Team Leader – ABC), Keith Fearon (Member Services Manager – ABC).

278 Declarations of Interest

Councillor	Interest	Minute No.
Bartlett	Made a 'Voluntary Announcement' as he lived close to Junction 10 of the M20	282

279 Minutes

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of this Board held on the 12th September 2017 be approved and confirmed as a correct record.

280 Public and Voluntary Transport Liaison Task Group

The Chairman of the Task Group advised that the name of the Group had recently been changed to the 'Strategic Transport Group' and he also explained that Stephen Gasche from KCC would be attending the next meeting on 6th April 2018.

Resolved:

That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Public and Voluntary Transport Liaison Task Group held on the 6th October 2017 be received and noted.

281 Parking and Waiting Restrictions – Update Summary

The report provided an update and summarised parking and waiting restriction schemes that had been through the Joint Transportation Board. It also asked the Board to agree recommendations regarding the recent public consultation on Amendment 3. The report also gave details of the options for parking controls for the TENT1 development, Tenterden and sought the Board's views on the preferred way forward.

Mr Miller introduced the report and advised that no objections had been received in respect of the consultation undertaken on Amendment 3 and asked the Board to agree the changes. In terms of Church Road, Kennington he advised that in view of the lack of suitable alternative proposals the Ward Member, ABC and KCC Officers and the Portfolio Holder had agreed that the scheme be no longer pursued.

In terms of the proposed parking restrictions for the TENT 1 development, Mr Miller explained that this had been discussed at the Tenterden Parking Forum and the option of a Residents Parking Zone without restrictions was the favoured option.

Resolved:

- That**
- (i) the update on schemes be noted.**
 - (ii) the implementation of the changes outlined in the report in respect of Amendment 3 be supported.**
 - (iii) proposals for waiting restrictions in Church Road, Kennington be discontinued.**
 - (iv) public consultation on a Residents Parking Zone without restrictions for the TENT 1 development be undertaken.**

282 A2070/Barrey Road Junction

The report provided an update on progress relating to potential improvements to the A2070/Barrey Road junction including the temporary installation of a 40mph speed limit and further investigations into providing a partially signalised junction.

Mr Harwood advised that following the original statement from Highways England he was pleased to report that Highways England would fund the provision of a signalised junction for Barrey Road as part of the works to be undertaken in respect

of the construction of Junction 10A. In response to a question from a Member he explained that the signalised junction would not enable right turns to be undertaken, however the J10A works would include a new roundabout which would enable traffic to travel south of junction 10 shortly after exiting Barrey Road.

The Vice Chairman said that this announcement was a major breakthrough and believed that credit needed to be acknowledged for the work of residents, businesses, the Willesborough Forum and the Parish Council. He also thanked Highways England in terms of reaching this conclusion. With reference to the conditions attached to the Consent Order for Junction 10A, he asked who would be responsible for monitoring their implementation. Mr Harwood explained that he was unable to answer that question with certainty but believed that ABC would be the appropriate body. In response to a further question from a Member, he advised that the temporary 40mph limit had been removed as the limit had been counter productive and had actually increased waiting times at the Barrey Road junction.

Mr Harwood further explained that a press statement detailing this announcement would be released shortly.

Resolved:

- That (i) the contents of the report and Appendices be received and noted.**
- (ii) the announcement from Highways England on the proposed funding and signalisation of the Barrey Road junction to be undertaken as part of the J10A construction works be welcomed.**

283 A28 Chart Road Dualling, Ashford

The update report had been produced as an Appendix to the Highway Works Programme item, however the Chairman advised that he wished for it to be considered separately.

Mr Stiff updated Members on the progress of the A28 Chart Road Improvement scheme covering the three months since the last JTB meeting in September. He explained that it was hoped that the design work would be finalised before Christmas and that confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order should be received towards the end of January. Subject to finalising land agreements and receiving the security bond from the Chilmington developers, which was required prior to the award of the Stage 2 construction contract, site clearance works were provisionally programmed to commence in February and main works in March 2018. Information about the works would be publicised via letter drops, social media and public exhibitions.

In response to a question from a Member, Mr Stiff explained that the Roadworks Team co-ordinated traffic management schemes to minimise the impact of highway works throughout other areas of the borough. In terms of this scheme he agreed to arrange a meeting after Christmas with local ward members to discuss the proposed traffic management measures associated with the construction works.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted and a further update be submitted to the next meeting of the Board in March 2018.

284 Experimental Overnight HGV Enforcement and Clamping Trial 2017

The report provided an update on the operation of the first four weeks of the pilot clamping scheme on the A20 between Charing and the Drivers roundabout since 30 October 2017.

Mrs Davison advised that figures for week 5 were now available which showed that 88 lorries had been clamped, with 41 of those on the A20. She also explained that the DfT had been approached to request the Secretary of State increase the current £40 release fee. The Chairman said that on behalf of the Board he wished to thank all of the Officers and in particular those from the Enforcement Team for their work on this initiative. As Chairman, and subject to the Boards agreement, he said that he would be happy to write direct to the Secretary of State requesting an increase in the statutory release fee.

A Member said that the introduction of 'Unsuitable for HGV' signs introduced in Willesborough had been very effective in reducing the problems of lorry parking in that area, however since the current clamping trial on the A20, there had been 2 instances of lorries returning to this area. Mrs Davison said that she would make note of this and asked Members to let her team know of any similar instances of this happening in other areas of the borough.

Resolved:

- That (i) **the Board notes the progress made to date and a further update report be submitted to the March 2018 meeting.**
- (ii) **the Chairman write to the Secretary of State for Transport seeking support for increasing the statutory release fee for vehicles clamped as part of the enforcement and experimental trial.**

285 Process for the Introduction of Parking Management Schemes

Mr Miller introduced the report which outlined a draft policy for use when receiving requests for Parking Management Schemes which complemented the process for traffic management requests supported by the Board in June 2015.

The Chairman said that careful consideration was required before bringing proposals for residents parking schemes to the Board as often potential solutions could cause problems in other areas.

In response to a comment from a Member suggesting that more parking space could be made available on the highway by actually marking parking spaces, Mr Miller said that in some situations this would be the case but each request should be considered on its own merits. This could have the effect of reducing space if smaller vehicles were parked. Mr Miller encouraged Members to visit the office to view the work currently undertaken on this policy.

Another Member referred to problems being caused in Newtown as a result of parking restrictions being introduced in the off road car parks managed by the

Housing department and considered that this initiative should be part of the same process outlined in the report. Mr Miller said that the housing initiative had been introduced on a trial basis and he undertook to convey this concern to the Housing department.

Resolved:

- That (i) the report be received and noted.
- (ii) a further report be submitted to the Board in March 2018 seeking formal endorsement of the Policy.

286 Highway Works Programme 2017/18

The report updated Members on the identified schemes approved for construction in 2017/18.

In response to a comment from a Member regarding a recent problem with the reinstatement of lining following highway works, Mrs Willoughby confirmed that such works were usually checked, however in this particular instance this had not been the case.

Mr Ashby referred to recent footpath works in Kenardington and said that there was a lengthy diversion in place whilst the works were undertaken which had resulted in certain members of the public being quite aggressive to the workmen concerned. Mrs Willoughby explained that diversions could be quite lengthy as they had to be via comparable types of road. She also explained that the advance Public Notices advising of forthcoming road closures were distributed very comprehensively.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

287 Drovers Roundabout Phasing of Lights

The report gave details of a proposed casualty reduction measure at Drovers Roundabout and an explanation upon the signal timings at the junction. Tabled at the meeting was a plan which showed the proposals for additional lane markings and additional lane signage.

Mrs Willoughby said that it was anticipated that the road marking works would be undertaken before the end of March. She also confirmed that the accident data was based on information provided by the Police. The Chairman suggested that perhaps consideration needed to be given to the implementation of box junctions.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

288 Local Winter Plan

The report outlined the arrangements that had been made between Kent County Council and Ashford Borough Council to provide a local winter service in the event of an operational snow alert in the borough/district.

In response to a question from Mr Ashby, Mrs Willoughby explained that the term 'secondary route' related to the less strategic routes and said that information regarding the classification of highways could be checked on the KCC web site.

Mrs Willoughby also confirmed that Parish Councils and Community Forums could be provided with salt in either 1 tonne or 25 kilo bags. She also explained that the KCC policy in respect of gritting and snow clearance from pavements had not changed in the past six years.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

289 Response from Highways England on A2070 Pedestrian Crossing

Attached to the agenda was a copy of a letter from Highways England in response to concerns raised at the previous meeting regarding the A2070 Pedestrian Crossing.

Resolved:

That the letter be received and noted.

290 Proposed KCC £4m Reduction in Socially Necessary Bus Budget

The report explained that within the Kent County Council's previously published Medium Term Financial Plan there was a proposed reduction of £4m to the budget for Socially Necessary Bus Services (SNBS) over the 2018-2020 period. The report summarised the proposed approach and provided information on the contracts which were likely to be affected in Ashford should the current SNBS be applied.

Mr Lightowler updated the Board and explained that at a recent County Council meeting the Leader had said that work would be undertaken with operators to review the potential impacts of the initial proposals. This process would be ongoing with a view to conducting a full KCC consultation exercise, including surgeries in key locations and coverage in the local press. Mr Lightowler also said that he would be happy to attend meetings of parish councils and the Quality Bus Partnership (QBP) and wished to emphasise that the table in the report represented a set of current contracts and not a list of defined cuts.

The Chairman said that he had concerns over the potential loss of school buses and the social consequences of the loss of other services. He, however, said that he was pleased that the QBP would be consulted. Another Member said that he had concerns about the effect of any loss of services to the William Harvey Hospital and he also drew attention to the variances in the level of passenger subsidy levels on

different routes. Other Members expressed concern at how this issue was being handled.

In response to a question about consultation, Mr Lightowler said that his team would be in close contact with local schools who would be provided with information about the consultation to disseminate to parents. In terms of the consultation he said that ample space would be provided for detailed responses and the information provided would specify the service under consideration. He also confirmed that the Leader of the County Council had said that he wished to limit the material impact of home to school journeys.

The Vice-Chairman said that in his view it was not unreasonable for KCC to look at the operation of subsidised bus services and said that he believed that if bus useage increased services could become more commercially viable.

In conclusion Mr Lightowler encouraged Members of the Board to let him have their views on the consultation.

Resolved:

That the report be received and noted.

Queries concerning these Minutes? Please contact Keith Fearon:
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